

Campfire Harmonica



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Preface

Are your nightly campfires uneventful? Does your troop need more fellowship and bonding? Bring music to your scouting campfires! What's that you say? You have the musical talent of a squealing pig? Have no fear ... Campfire Harmonica is here! This book will help you learn the fundamentals of note and chord playing on a harmonica. With a little practice, anybody can play some fun tunes on a harmonica. You'll learn simple songs from a songbook of crowd favorites to practice and play for your troop. Learn a skill that you can develop throughout your life and enjoy with your family and friends. Campfire Harmonica is for every scouter – from den chief to scoutmaster.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all the scouters throughout the world. You are leading our youth by great example. I'm convinced that our future is in good hands each time I see an eagle scout get his wings!

*Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it.*
Proverbs 22:6

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1

Introduction

There is a popular old joke:

Young Musician: “How do you get to Carnegie Hall?”

Old Musician: “Practice, practice, practice?”

Well, practice has always been the sticky point for a lot of us wanna-be musicians. I’d rather take a cab to Carnegie Hall. Nobody wants to practice. We want instant success! Musical talent doesn’t lend itself to instant success for most people. Some of us practice hard and become great musicians; some of us don’t. This book is targeted for the musical novice. That is, those who don’t.

I’ve always wanted to play the piano. As much as I’ve tried, I’ve never been very good. When I had children, I bought a harmonica simply to entertain them. It was a cheap squeaker, but the kids enjoyed it. I kept it around for years. I’d occasionally find it stuck in a drawer, and I’d take it out and toot a few notes. Eventually, I took a liking to it. I found that it wasn’t too difficult to learn to play it either. With a little practice, I was able to knock out some fun family songs. Soon it became a practical tool to have fun with the family – during long drives or just goofing around at home. Before I knew it, I was a real harp player. (“Harp” is a common name for harmonica. If you want to be a harmonica player, you might as well start talking like one.)

Now, as a Scoutmaster, I find that it is the perfect tool for campfire entertainment with the scouts. There are several great reasons for this:

- The harmonica is inexpensive. I need not worry about damaging or losing a valuable instrument. A cheap squeaker costs only \$5. As you progress through your harp career, you may decide to invest \$30 in a great quality harmonica. If you ever become a harp snob, or start to tour with Aerosmith, even the high end harmonicas sell for only \$100-\$300.

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- It is very portable. You can keep it in your pocket or your backpack, and pull it out whenever the mood hits you. Why not keep a few stored in your troop gear? Never go on a camping or backpacking trip without one. When opportunity knocks, pull out your harp and start to wail!
- You can play it just about anywhere. Have you ever been driving with the scouts to camp and one of them decides to start playing his piano? That's not likely to happen. But can he pull out his harmonica for an impromptu song? Sure he can! Whether you are in a tent, around a campfire, in a car, or hiking down the trail, all you need is a harp and a free hand to enjoy playing.
- It is easy to play simple melodies. Although you can't play a good Beethoven on a harmonica, you can belt out just about any folk song. You'll soon memorize a few songs, and have the rest of your favorites written down in easy-to-follow notes. You need no musical background to learn. Just start playing according to the numbers and according to the beat of your favorite well-known songs.
- Anybody can accompany you. Imagine sitting around the campfire with all the scouts joining you in a rendition of *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*. Better yet, how about having another scouter bring his guitar to play with you?
- Friends can learn quickly and you can jam together. My son plays guitar very well. I've tried to sit down with him and jam on the guitars. He leaves me in the dust and I can't catch up. But when you play a harmonica, your friends can pick it up rather easily. It's much more fun to sing and play with friends.

You can learn the basic techniques for harmonica playing in just a few hours. To an untrained ear, the only difference between a harp player who has been playing the harmonica for ten hours and a player who has been playing for ten years is the number of songs they know!

2

Get to know your harp

"Haven't I seen your face before?" a traffic court judge demanded, looking down at the defendant. "You have, Your Honor," the man answered hopefully. "I gave your son harmonica lessons at Scout Camp." "Ah, yes," recalled the judge. "Twenty years!"

Harmonicas come in various types, keys and styles. For the sake of this book, let's assume we all have the same type and key. I am going to assume you have a standard, 10-hole, diatonic harmonica in the key of C. For those of you scratching your head after reading that last sentence, let me help you out.

Look at your harmonica. Count the playing holes. If you are lazy (I mean, resourceful) you can just look at the numbers across the top. There could be 10, 12, 16, 24 or any other (usually even) number.

Now for the big word – diatonic. The two main types of harmonicas are diatonic and chromatic. The diatonic is predominantly used in blues, rock, country, folk, etc. It is so common in blues that it is called a “blues harp”. The chromatic harmonica has a button on the side which allows you to play the normal major scale, and with the button depressed, gives you all the half steps or notes in between. For harp aficionados, another key difference is that you cannot “bend” a chromatic, but you can bend a diatonic.

The following pictures show both styles of harp – diatonic and chromatic.

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Figure 1: Diatonic Harmonica: 10-hole in C



Figure 2: Chromatic Harmonica: 12-hole in C

Here's a riddle for you:

Q: In what key do you play the favorite scout song "Climbing the Camp Tuscarora Tower"?

A: C sharp...or B flat!

How do you know what key you are playing? The key represents the pitch of the note – how high

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR HARMONICA

or how low it is. For harmonicas, the key is defined by the 1-blow note. That means the note that your harmonica plays when you blow in the 1 hole. Diatonic harmonicas come in all twelve keys (G, Ab, A, Bb, B, C, Db, D, Eb, E, F, F#). For the lazy – sorry, “resourceful” – player, the key is often stamped on the harmonica or on the case. Experienced players will be able to just blow in the 1 hole and know by the sound that comes out.

By now, you should be holding a 10-hole, diatonic C Harp in your musically-talented little fingers. Put your lips around it and blow. You just played your first harmonica notes (perhaps even a chord). Do you think you are holding it correctly? Let’s be honest ... musicians are individualists. Many harp players have unique ways of holding the harmonica. Don’t worry about it too much. Just do what feels comfortable. Here’s the most common way to hold it:

- Hold it in your right hand, pushed deep between your thumb and forefinger, with the 10 hole to the right. That means, the lowest notes are to the left, the highest notes are to the right.
- Use your left hand to “cup” the back of the harmonica. If you open the cup, you will get an open note, but if you close the cup, the sound will be muffled. For our beginning lessons, leave the cup open, but try to keep your left hand supporting your right.
- Maybe it’s easier to just look at this picture ...



Figure 3: Holding the Harp

Can you feel the excitement? Do you have the urge to put that in your mouth and start wailing? Without further adieu, let’s play!

3

Basic Skills

Now that you can hold you are harmonica, let's just make some sound. Put it in your mouth and blow. Moisten and relax your lips. Slide the harmonica left and right as you climb up and down the scale of notes. When we say to go "up" the harp, we mean for you to slide to the right and go to a higher note. When we say go "down", you should slide to the lower notes on the left. Now, try a draw. That is, in simple terms, just sucking air in through the harmonica. "Blow" means to blow air from your lungs into the harmonica. "Draw" means to suck air through the harmonica into your lungs. Have some fun! Slide up and down the harp, drawing and blowing to your heart's content.

That Single-Note Sound

Here comes the challenge. Can you blow a single note? It doesn't matter what note, just pick one and try to blow it. Do you hear the side notes joining you? If you are having trouble understanding what a single not sounds like, try covering the 9 other holes with your finger and blow into the one open hole. Try moving the harp deeper in your mouth at different angles. Can you find a position to funnel the air into one hole?

Are you having trouble? At first attempt, the note may sound raspy or you may get some extra notes sneaking in there. Keep at it. As you reposition your harmonica in your mouth and change the shape of your lips, you will hear the sound improve. Some people like to pucker and form a small hole between their lips. Others like to flare their lips out and cover the harp. The fancy word for that is called "Embouchure". Still others relax the lips and push the harp deep in the mouth at an angle that allows proper air flow. Experiment to see what works best for you. Don't get frustrated. We are just trying to have fun. If you can't get it right away, have no fear. Just keep trying. Be sure to keep your lips and face relaxed. Tight lips will have you worn out before the second chorus.

SIMPLE SKILLS

Give yourself a pat on the back when you get that single note sound working well for you. Once you can play a single note, you can play a wide range of notes by sliding up and down the harp. The following picture shows the note mapping for a C harp. A 1 blow is a C note; so are a 4 blow and a 7 blow. Those subsequent notes are simply higher octaves of the same note.

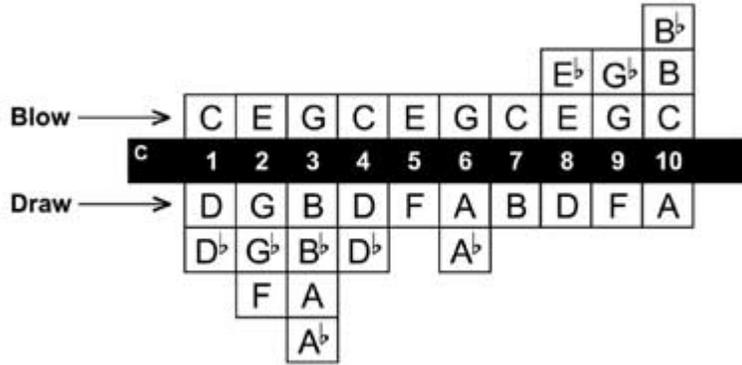


Figure 4: Note Mapping

Look how many different notes you can get out of a little, three inch harmonica! That’s three full octaves of notes. Guess what, you can even make a lot more. That will come later.

Let’s try to play some notes with control. Do this exercise:

1. Blow up the harp from the 1 hole to the 10 hole. Hit each note one at a time.
2. Next, try the same exercise with draws.
3. Now, alternate blows and draws on each hole as you climb up and down the harp.

To play the eight note major scale, give this a whirl:

	do	re	mi	fa	so	la	ti	do
note:	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C

hole:	4	-4	5	-5	6	-6	-7	7
	B	D	B	D	B	D	D	B

B=blow D=draw; “-“=draw

In much of our harmonica note tablature (also called “tab”), you will see a “-“ sign before a number to indicate a draw on that hole. No sign means that the note is a blow on that hole. Note that the scale pattern changes between the 6th and 7th hole. Don’t blame me; I didn’t design the harmonica.

Here’s your next set of exercises:

1. Play the major scale going up.
2. Play the major scale going down.
3. Play the major scale going up, but play each note twice.
4. Play the major scale going down, but play each note twice.
5. Play the major scale up and down, building your speed gradually from very slow to very fast.

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Simple Chords

Single notes are great for simple melodies. If one note is great, two notes must be twice as great! By simultaneously playing compatible notes, you can arrange a chord. A simple chord would be the 1-2 blow or the 1-2 draw. Cover holes 3 through 10 with your finger and try playing these two chords. Once you understand the sound, try playing it without your finger. Try blowing the single 1 hole and just open your lips and slide toward the 2 hole until you are playing both.

Ready for some rhythm? Try alternating these two chords to form a beat.

note:	(1,2)	(1,2)	-(1,2)	-(1,2)	(1,2)	(1,2)	-(1,2)	-(1,2)
count:	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

Let's try another exercise:

1. Play the same rhythm above with a (4,5,6) chord.
2. Play the rhythm with the first four counts using the (1,2,3) chord and the last four counts using the (4,5,6) chord.
3. Play the rhythm with blow counts using the (1,2,3) chord and the draw counts using the (4,5,6) chord.

Breathing

My son loves to play his electric guitar as loud as we let him. He has a big amplifier that he cranks way up loud while he is playing. Harmonicas also have an amplifier, actually two of them. They are called your lungs. Breathing power and control will help you become a better player.

A harmonica player needs to be able to breathe using the diaphragm. Diaphragm breathing is different than chest breathing. In order to sustain a long, even tone, you need to get that diaphragm working. It will help you get big, resonant sounds and control over low to high volumes.

Let's try some exercises to improve your breathing ability.

1. Work your diaphragm. Stand straight up with your arms hanging at your sides. Take a slow, deep breath in as you raise your arms over your head. Now, slowly breathe out as you lower your arms to your sides. Pay attention to the feeling you get between your belly and chest during this exercise. That feeling is your diaphragm working. Repeat this several times.
2. Hold a blow note as long as you can. Follow that immediately by holding a draw note as long as you can. Try to keep a constant volume. Build up to 20 seconds for each note. Measure your max hold time.
3. Hold a blow note at very low volume. Slowly build up the volume to as loud as you can go. As soon as you get to max volume, slowly ramp the volume back down at the same rate.

4

Your First Songs

Are you comfortable with your basic harp skills? Can you blow a single note? Can you play the major scale smoothly? If you still can't, just keep practicing. You don't need to be perfect; you have your whole life to improve. Keep playing with your harp until you get comfortable with single notes, simple chords and breathing. If you get frustrated, take a break. Above all, have fun. When you struggle, just go back and perform those exercises in the last chapter. Before you know it, you will be playing like you were born with a harmonica in your mouth.

When was the last time you heard scales played at a concert? Never? OK, well scales aren't known to be a hip tune. It's certainly more fun to learn to play real songs. Let's look at some songs with simple melodies to try out our new harp skills.

But first, let's learn how to learn. That is, understand an effective way to learn a new song.

1. Songs are described in this book by their song tablature ("tab"). As you saw in the last chapter, blows are represented by the hole number [e.g. 6] and draws are represented by a minus sign before the hole number [e.g. -5]. Single numbers are single notes. Chords are expressed by the chord holes enclosed in parentheses [e.g. (4,5,6), -(3,4,5)]. Sometimes, the parentheses are left out and the numbers are jammed together. Note that you only need one minus sign for a draw chord. It is understood that all holes are either blow or draw. I haven't met anyone who could draw on one hole while they blow on another. Lyrics are usually included.
2. Begin by taking the song very slow. Do not worry about the beat or the speed. Just play through the song note by note. Get the feel for what holes are used in the song.
3. Next, focus on one line at a time. Try to get the speed and rhythm right. It may take some repetition before you learn to play it smoothly. That's perfectly fine. Progressively build it up from the beginning to the end.

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4. Keep at it! Learn simple songs and move up to more difficult song. Get the feel of what holes to play. Get comfortable moving up and down the harp.

The classic first song to learn on a harmonica is Mary Had a Little Lamb. It only uses three holes. Try the following:

Mary Had A Little Lamb

5 -4 4 -4 5 5 5
Ma-ry had a lit-tle lamb

-4 -4 -4 5 6 6
Lit-tle lamb, lit-tle lamb

5 -4 4 -4 5 5 5
Ma-ry had a lit-tle lamb

5 -4 -4 5 -4 4
Whose fleece was white as snow

Did you do it? You are now an official harmonica player!

YOUR FIRST SONGS

Here's another classic that uses the same three holes. It's quite a bit busier, so take it slow at first.

Oh Susanna

4-4 5 6 6-6 6 5

I came from Al-a-bam-a

4 -4 5 5 -4 4 -4

with my ban-jo on my knee;

4-4 5 6 6 -6 6 5

I'm goin' to Lou-'si-an-a

4-4 5 5 -4 -4 4

M-y true love for to see.

4-4 5 6 6 -6 6 5 4

I-t rained all night the day I left

-4 5 5 -4 4 -4

The weath-er it was dry;

4 -4 5 6 6 -6 6 5 4

Th-e sun so hot I froze to death,

-4 5 5 -4 -4 4

Su-san-na, don't you cry.

-5 -5 -6 -6 -6 6 6 5 4 -4

Oh, Su-san-na, oh, don't you cry for me;

4 -4 5 6 6-6 6 5

I-ve come from Al-a-bam-a

4 -4 5 5 -4 -4 4

with my ban-jo on my knee.

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Feeling good? Ready for a 4-hole song?

Three Blind Mice (a.k.a. The Theme from the Three Stooges)

5 -4 4 5 -4 4
Three blind mice. Three blind mice.

6 -5 -5 5 6 -5 -5 5
See how they run. See how they run.

6 7 7 -7 -6 -7 7 6 6
They all ran after the farmer's wife.

6 7 7 7 -7 -6 -7 7 6 6
She cut off their tails with a carving knife.

6 6 7 7 -7 -6 -7 7 6 6 6
Did you ever see such a sight in your life,

-5 5 -4 4
As three blind mice?

Try playing that one the next time you have three scouts struggling to light a campfire. They might not get it, but you will.

As you build your confidence, don't limit yourself to these few songs. Dig into the back of this book. You will find a songbook with lots of beginner songs to try.

5

Jamming Skills

A down and out musician was playing his harmonica for tips in the middle of a busy shopping mall. Striding over, a policeman asked, "May I please see your permit?" "I don't have one," confessed the musician. "In that case, you'll have to accompany me." "Fantastic!" exclaimed the musician. "What shall we sing?"

Single notes and chords are sufficient for most simple melodies. However, harmonica players are known for letting some passionate feeling flow through those reeds. Harmonica players play the blues.

There are several important techniques that harmonics players use to create a bluesey sound to jam along with. We will talk about three simple ones:

1. Bending: Getting alternate notes (flats) by changing the air flow.
2. Drumming: Using your tongue to block air flow and create a rhythm.
3. Flutter: Flapping your cupping hand to create a vibrato effect.

Bending

To "bend" a note on the harmonica, you change the direction and intensity of the airflow across the reed. You are bending the pitch of the note down. A straight blow or draw forces the air parallel with the reed. When you bend the note, you are forcing the air at an angle across the reed. That makes it sound a bit different.

To create a bend, try a 3-hold draw. Then try pushing your tongue to the bottom of your mouth and maybe even open your jaw a bit. You should hear the note drop in pitch. Now try it the the blow note. For both the draw and blow, try to say "wah wah" as you are playing the note. The "wah wah"

JAMMING SKILLS

Practice some of the earlier songs with a good drum beat.

Flutter

Another jamming technique to add a little personality to your playing is the flutter. A flutter occurs when you flap your cupping hand open and closed to vibrate the air going into or out of the harmonica. It creates a nice vibrato sound. Essentially, you are alternating between a muffled sound and an open sound. You can also create it by slightly shaking your harmonica up and down while you play a note.

Many harmonica players like to flutter a lot. When you watch them, you will see their hand behind the harmonica flapping around like crazy. I am convinced that harp players use the flutter the way guitar players use the whammy bar. It adds an interesting sound, but it adds a more interesting look.

Play a 4 blow. Open and close your hand as you play a controlled note. Do you notice that when your cupping hand is closed the note sounds muffled, and when it is open the note sounds free and crisp? Try fluttering slow, then fast. For even greater effect, try the “wah wah” in cadence with the flutter.

A great part of playing any music is improvising. The best musicians are known for their ability to just rock out an impromptu riff during a song. As you pick up new skills, give them a try anytime in your songs. A little bend here, a little flutter there and some rhythmical tongue drumming can liven up any song. They will make the song uniquely yours.

6

Building Your Repertoire

You are moving along nicely and you sound like a real harp player. Now that you have a few songs and a lot of skills under your belt, let's build our song base. These songs will focus on your new jamming skills.

Amazing Grace is a great song to practice your bends and it allows for some improvisation. My version is a bit different than most because I like it a bit cheerier. You can wah-wah the long notes and bend wherever you feel the urge.

Amazing Grace

3 4 5 4 5 -4 4 4 3
A-maz-i-ng Grace! How sweet the sound!

3 4 5 4 5 -4 6
That saved a - wretch like me!

6 -6 6 -6 6 5 -4 4 -4 3
I on-ce w-as lost, but now am found;

3 3 4 5 4 5 -4 4
W-as blind, b-ut now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

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4. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.
5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.
6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

Let's get that flutter working. Here is a classic favorite lullaby that I've played for my kids as they grew up. On those long notes, practice your flutter.

You Are My Sunshine

3 4 -4 5 5 5 -4 5 4 4
You are my sun-shine my only sunshine

4 -4 5 -5 -6 -6 6 -5 5
You make me happy when skies are gray

4 -4 5 -5 -6 -6 6 -5 5 4
You'll never know dear, how much I love you

4 -4 5 -5 -4 -4 5 4
Please don't take my sunshine away.

Now let's practice the drumming. The following song has a lot of repeated notes. Use your tongue to drum out each note. You'll see that drumming gives you a crisper sound that starts to resemble talking. On those long notes, try a little flutter.

What a Wonderful World

3 -3 4 4 6 -6 -6-6 6
I see trees of green, red roses too
I see skies of blue, clouds of white

-5 6 -5 5 -4 -4 -4 4
I see them bloom for me and you
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night

4 4 4 4 4 4
And I say to myself

4 4 -3 4 -3 5
What a wonderful world

4 4 4 4 4 4
And I say to myself

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4 4 -3 4 -3 4
What a wonderful world

4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 3
The colors of the rainbow

3 5 5 5 5 4
So pretty in the sky

4 -4-4 -4 -4 -4 3
Are also on the faces

3 5 5 5 5 4
Of people passing by

5 6 -6 -6 -6 6
I see friends shaking hands
I hear babies cry

5 6 -6 -6 -6 6
Saying, how do you do?
And I watch them grow

-6 -6 -6 6 5 -5 5 -4
They're real - ly saying, I love you
They'll learn much more than Ill ever know

4 4 4 -4 5 4
And I say to myself

4 -3 -3 4 -4 (45)
What a wonderful world

7

Songbook: Folk Songs

Classic American folk songs are perfect for the campfire. These are songs with lyrics that most kids know. Even the shy scouts will jump in to join you. But beware! There are some silly versions of the lyrics that the kids may be able to teach you. Enjoy!

Home on the Range

4 4 5 -5 6 5 -4 5 -6 -6 -6
Oh, give me a home where the buf-fa-lo roam,

6 -6 7 4 4 4 -3 4 -4
Where the deer and the an-te-lope play

4 4 5 -5 6 5 -4 5 -6 -6 -6
Where sel-dom is heard a dis-cour-a-ging word,

6 -6 7 4 4 4 -3 -4 4
And the skies are not cloud-y all day.

6 -5 5 -4 5
Home, home on the range,

4 4 4 5 5 5 -4 5 -5
Where the deer and the an-te-lope play.

4 4 5 -5 6 5 -4 5 -6 -6 -6
Where sel-dom is heard a dis-cour-a-ging word,

6 -6 7 4 4 4 -3 -4 4
And the skies are not cloud-y all day.

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This Old Man (a.k.a. the Barney Song)

6 5 6 6 5 6
This old man, he played ONE

-6 6 -5 5 -4 5 -5
He played nick nack on my THUMB

5 -5 6 4 4 4 4
With a nick nack, paddy wack

4 -4 5 -5 6
Give your dog a bone,

6 -4 -4 -5 5 -4 4
This old man came rolling home.

Other stanzas: TWO - SHOE
THREE - KNEE
FOUR - DOOR
FIVE - HIVE
SIX - STICKS
SEVEN - HEAVEN
EIGHT - GATE
NINE - SPINE
TEN - ONCE AGAIN

Zip A Dee Doo Dah

5 5 -5 6 7 -6 -5 -6 6
Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-aaye,

7 7 -66 5 4 5 4 5 -4
My, oh, my what a wonderful day.

5 5 -5 6 7 -6 -5 -6 6
Plenty of sunshine headed my way.

-6 -7 7 8 7 -8 -6 -7 7
Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-aaye.

7 -6 -7 -6 -5 -4 -6 6
Mister Bluebird on my shoulder,

-7 7 -8 8 7 -8
It's the truth, it's actual.

-7 7 -7 -6 6 -5 5 -4
Everything is satisfactual.

5 5 -5 6 7 -6 -5 -6 6
Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-aaye,

-6 -7 7 8 7 -8 -6 -7 7
Wonderful feeling, wonderful day.

FOLK SONGS

I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing

-3 3 -3 4 -3 3 -3 4
I'd like to teach the world to sing

-3 -5 6 -5 6 -5
in perfect harmony.

6 -5 6 7 6 -5 6 7
I'd like to hold it in my arms,

6 5 -5 5 -3 3
and keep it company

-3 3 -3 4 -3 3 -3 4
I'd like to see the world for once

4 -5 6 -5 6 -5
all standing hand in hand.

6 -5 6 7 6 -5 6 7
And hear them echo through the hills

6 5 -5 4 -3 4
for peace throughout the land.

6 6 -6 6 5
That's the Song I sing,

4 4 4 -4 4 -5
Let the world sing today.

6 -5 6 7 6 -5 6 7
A song of peace that echos on,

6 5 -5 5 -3 4
and never goes away.



Songbook: Patriotic Songs

Scouts perform a lot of “duty to country” activities. Whether it’s marching in a parade, or holding a flag ceremony, or working on citizenship requirements, scouts are a patriotic bunch. Here are some songs you can use at patriotic scout events, perhaps at a flag ceremony during camp.

Star Spangled Banner

-4-3 3 -3 -4 6
Oh say can you see,

-7 -6 6 -3 4 -4
by the dawn's ear-ly light,

-4 -4 -7 -6 6 -5'
what so proud-ly we hailed

5 -5 6 6 -4 -3 3
at the twi-lights last gleam-ing,

-4 -3 3 -3 -4 6
whose broad stripes and bright stars,

-7 -6 6 -3 4 -4
through the per-il-ous fight,

-4 -4 -7 -6 6 -5'
o'er the ram-parts we watched

5 -5 6 6 -4 -3 3
were so gal-lant-ly stream-ing;

-7 -7 -7 7 -8 -8
And the rock-ets red glare,

7 -7 -6 -7 7 7

PATRIOTIC SONGS

the bombs burst-ing in air,

7 -7 -6 6 -5'
gave proof through the night,

5 -5 6 -3 4 -4
that our flag was still there.

-4 6 6 6 -5 5 5 5
Oh say does that star spang-led

-6 7 -7 -6 6 6 -5'
ban-ner yet wave,

-4 -4 6 -6 -7 7 -8
o'er the land of the free,

6 -6 -7 7 -6 6
and the home of the brave.

God Bless America

7 -7 -6 -7 -6 6 -8 7 -8 8
God bless A-mer-i-ca, land that I love.

-8 8 -9 -6 -9 8 6
Stand be-side her, and guide her

7 -8 8 -8 7 -8 7 -7 7
Through the night with a light from a-bove.

-7 7 -8 6 7 -8 8 6
From the moun-tains, to the prai-ries,

-8 8 -9 -7 8 -9 9
To the o-ceans, white with foam.

-10 9 -9 8 -8 7 -9 8 -8 9
God bless A-mer-i-ca, my home sweet home.

-10 9 -9 8 -8 7 -9 8 -8 7
God bless A-mer-i-ca, my home sweet home.

This Land is Your Land

4 -4 5 -5 -5 -5 4 -4 5 5
This land is your land This land is my land

3 4 5 -4 -4 -4 -4 4 -4 5 5
From Ca-li-for-nia to the New York is-lands

4 4 -4 5 -5 -5 -5 -5 4 -4 5 5
From the red-wood for-est to the gulf stream wa-ters

-4 -4 -4 -3 3 -3 -4 4
This land was made for you and me

CAMPFIRE HARMONICA

America (My Country 'tis of Thee)

4 4 -4 -3 4 -4
My coun-try 'tis of thee,

5 5 -5 5 -4 4
Sweet land of li-ber-ty

-4 4 -3 4
Of thee I sing.

6 6 6 6 -5 5
Land where my fath-ers died,

-5 -5 -5 -5 5 -4
Land of the pil-gram's pride

5 -5 5 -4 4 5 -5 6
From e-v-er-y moun-tain side,

-6-5 5 -4 4
Le-t free-dom ring.

9

Songbook: Scout Songs

Many scout songs are created by singing silly lyrics to the tune of traditional songs. Here are a few of those songs that are used as scout song fodder. As you build up your song list, make up some funny lyrics and teach your boys some new scout songs. Fun songs like that are the best for making exciting and memorable campfires.

Happy Trails

6 6 9 9 8
Hap-py Trails to you

6 -6 6 -6 6 -7
Un-til we meet a-gain,

6 6 9 9 -8
Hap-py Trails to you,

6 -8 6 -8 6 8
Keep smil-in' un-til then.

9 9 8 8 -8 -8
Who cares a-bout the clouds

7 -6 7 9 -9
When we're to-geth-er?

8 8 -8 -8 -7
Just sing a song and

-7 -6 -6 -6 8 -8

CAMPFIRE HARMONICA

bring the sun-ny weath-er.

6 6 9 9 8
Hap-py Trails to you

-9 9 -10 -7 7
Til we meet a-gain.

On Top of Spaghetti

4 4 5 6 7 -6
On top of spagetti

-6 -5 6 -6 5
all cov-ered with cheese.

4 4 5 6 6 -4
I lost my poor meatball

5 -5 5 -4 4
when somebody sneezed.

4 4 5 6 7 -6
It rolled off the table

-6 -5 6 -6 6
and onto the floor

4 4 4 5 6 6 -4
And then my poor meatball

5 -5 5 -4 4
rolled out of the door.

Clementine

4 4 4 3 5 5 5 4
In a cavern, in a canyon

4 5 6 6 -5 5 -4
excavating for a mine,

-4 5 -5 -5 -5 5 -4 5 4
lived a miner, a fortyner

4 5 -4 -2 -3 -4 4
and his daughter, Clementine

4 4 4 3 5 5 5 4
Oh my darlin', oh my darlin'

4 5 6 6 -5 5 -4
Oh my darlin', Clementine

-4 5 -5 -5 -5 5 -4 5 4
You are lost and gone forever

4 5 -4 -2 -3 -4 4
Dreadful sorry, Clementine

SCOUT SONGS

When the Saints Go Marching In

4 5 -5 6
oh when the saints

4 5 -5 6
go marching in

4 5 -5 6 5 4 5 5 -4
oh when the saints go marching in

5 5 -4 4 4 5 6 6 6 -5
oh lord i want to be in that number

5 -5 6 5 4 -4 4
when the saints go marching in

Hokey Pokey

6 -6 6 7 7 7
You put your right hand in,

6 -6 6 7 7 7
You put your right hand out;

6 -6 6 7 7 7
You put your right hand in,

-6 6 -7 -6 -7 -6 -7
And you shake it all about.

6 -7 -7 -7 -7 -7 6
You do the Hokey Pokey

-6 6 -7 -7 -7 -7 -7
And you turn yourself around.

6 6 6 -6 -7 7 7
That's what it's all about! Hey

10

Songbook: Spiritual Songs

Scouts also have a duty to God. We often have difficulty finding proper ways to execute that duty. Try these songs at Scout's Own Service on Sunday morning at campouts.

Friend of God

5 6 6
Who am I

6 -6 6 6 -5 -5 6
that You are mind-ful of me

6 -5 -5 6
that You hear me

-5 5 5
when I call

5 6 6
Is it true

6 -6 6 6 -5 -5 6
that You are think-ing of me

6 -5 -5 6
How You love me

-6 7 -8 7
its a-maz-ing

7 7 7 7 6 6
I am a friend of God

7 7 7 7 6 -6
I am a friend of God

SPIRITUAL SONGS

7 7 7 7 6 -6
I am a friend of God

7 7 -7 7
He calls me friend

6 6 6 6
God Al-might-y

6 6 6 6
Lord of Glo-ry

6 6 6 -6 6
You have called me friend

6 6 6 6
God Al-might-y

6 6 -7 7
Lord of Glo-ry

7 7 7 -8 7
You have called me friend

Above All

5 6 7 -7 -6 -5 -5 -6 6
A-bove all po-wers, a - bove all kings

5 6 7 -7 -6 -7 7 -7 -6 6 6
A-bove all na-ture and all cre - a - ted things

5 5 6 -6 -6 -7 7 -7 6 5 -6 6
A-bove all wis-dom and all the ways of ma - an

-5 -5 -5 6 -6 6 -5 5 -4
You were there be-fore the world be-gan

5 6 7 -7 -6 -5 -5 -6 6
A-bove all king-doms, a-bove all thrones

5 6 7 -7 -6 -7 7 -7 -6 6 6
A-bove all won-ders the world has e-ver known

5 5 6 -6 -7 7 -7 6 5 -6 6
A-bove all wealth and trea-sures of the ear-th

-5 -5 -5 6 -6 6 -5 5 5
There's no way to mea-sure what You're worth

8 -8 -9 -8 8 -9 8 8
Cru-ci-fied, laid be-hind a stone

-8 8 -8 -9 -8 -8 8 -9 8 8
You Lived to die re-ject-ed and a-lone

8 -8 7 8 -8 7 -7 -6 6
like a rose tram-pled on the gro-und

CAMPFIRE HARMONICA

-8 7 6 -5 6 7 -7 7 -7 -6 -7 7
You took the fall and thought of me - e a - bove all

Here I am to Worship

5 5 -5 -4 -4 5 -5 5 -4 -4 4 -3"
Light of the World, you stepped down in-to dark-ness,

5 5 -5 -4 -4 5 4
o-pened my eyes, let me____ see.

5 5 -5 -4 -4 5 -5 5 -4 4 4
Beau-ty that made this____ heart a-dore____ you,

5 5 -5 -4 -4 5 4
Hope of a life spent with you.

Chorus

-3" -5 5 5 -4 5 5 -5 5 -4 4 -4 -4
So, here I am to wor-ship, here I am to bow down,

-5 5 5 -4 5 5 5 6 4
Here I am to say that You're my God._____

4 -5 -5 5 5 -4 5 5 -5 5 5 -4 -4 -4
And you're al-to-gath-er love-ly, al-to-gath-er wor-thy,

-5 5 5 -4 5 5 5 6 4
al-to-gath-er wor-der-ful to me._____

Verse 2

5 5 -5 -4 -4 5 -5 5 -4 -4 4 -3"
King of all days, oh so high-ly ex-al - ted,

5 5 -5 -4 -4 5 4
Glo-rious in heav-en a-bove.

5 5 -5 -4 -4 5 -5 5 -4 4 4
Hum-bly You came to the Earth You cre-a-ated,

5 5 -5 -4 -4 5 4
All for love's sake be-came____ poor._____

Bridge

3 5 -4 -4 5 6 -5 5 -4 4 -4
And I'll nev-er know how much it cost to see

-4 5 6 -5 5 -4
my sin up-on that cross.

3 5 -4 -4 5 6 -5 5 -4 4 -4
And I'll nev-er know how much it cost to see

SPIRITUAL SONGS

-4 5 6 -5 5 -4
my sin up-on that cross.

You Raise Me Up

3 4 5
When I'm down

4 -4 4 4 4 4 3
And oh my soul's so wear-y.

4 5 -5 6
When troub-les come

6 6 -6 6 5 -4
And my heart bur-dened be,

6 -6 -7 7
Then I am still

6 -7 -6 6 -5 6 5
And wait here-in, in si-lence,

3 6 -5 5 3 5 -4 4 -3 4
Un-til you come and sit a-while with me.

6 -6 -7 7
You raise me up,

6 -7 -6 6 -5 6 5
So I can stand on mount-ains.

6 -8 7 7
You raise me up

6 -7 -6 6 -5 6
To walk on storm-y seas

6 -6 -7 7
And I am strong,

6 -7-6 6 -5 6 7
When I am on your shoul-ders.

4 6 -5 5
You raise me up,

4 5 -4 4 -3 4
To more, than I can be,

4 6 -5 5
You raise me up,

4 5 -4 4 -3 4
To more, than I can be.

11

Songbook: Family Favorites

In this chapter, I include some of my personal favorites. These were the songs that I played for my kids as they grew up. They were favorite lullabys that seemed to make long car rides much more enjoyable.

As I reflect on these songs, and many provided in other chapters, I realize how a simple thing like a harmonica helped to create some strong, loving bonds with my children.

Hush Little Baby

3 5 5 5 -5 5 -4 -4 -4
Hush, little baby, don't say a word,

3 3 -4 -4 -4 -4 5 -4 4 4
Mama's gonna buy you a mocking bird.

3 5 5 -5 5 -4 -4
If that mocking bird don't sing

3 3 -4 -4 -4 -4 5 -4 4 4
Mama's gonna buy you a diamond ring....

If that diamond ring turns brass
Mama's gonna buy you a looking glass.

If that looking glass gets broke
Mama's gonna buy you a billy goat.

If that billy goat's too smart
Mama's gonna buy you a horse and cart.

If that horse and cart break down
Mama's gonna buy you a long night gown.

FAMILY FAVORITES

Just The Way You Are

7 8 7 -6 -6 -6 7 -6 5
Don't go changing to try to please me,

5 -5 6 5 4 4 -4 5
You never let me down before.

5 5 -4 4 5 6 -7 7
Don't imagine you're too familiar

-6 -6 -7 7 -8 -7-6 6
And I don't see you any more.

7 7 8 7 -6 -6 -6 7 -6 5
I would not leave you in time of trouble.

5 5 5 5 -4 4 -4 5
We never could have come this far.

5 5 5 -4 4 4 5 6 -7 7
I took the good times, I'll take the bad times.

-6 -6 -7 7 -8 -6 -7 7
I'll take you just the way you are.

Refrain:

4 -6 7 -7 -6 6 -5 6 -7 -6
I need to know that you will always be

4 -5 -6 6 -5 5 -4 5
The same old someone that I knew.

7 7 7 8 -8 7 -7 -7 -6 -8 7
Oh, what will it take til you believe in me

5 -6 7 -7 -6 6 -5 6
The way that I believe in you.

7 7 8 7 -6 4 -6 7 -6 5
I said I love you and that's forever,

5 -5 6 5 4 4 -4 5
And this I promise from the heart.

5 -4 4 -4 4 5 6 -7 7
I could not love you any better.

-6 -6 -7 7 -8 -6 -7 7
I love you just the way you are.
(I want you just the way you are.)

Verse 2

Don't go trying some new fashion.
Don't change the color of your hair.

CAMPFIRE HARMONICA

You always have my unspoken passion,
Although I might not seem to care.
I don't want clever conversation,
I never want to work that hard.
I just want someone that I can talk to,
I want you just the way you are.

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

4 7 -7 6 -6 -7 7
1.some-where o-ver the rain-bow
2.some-where o-ver the rain-bow

4 -6 6
1.way up high
2.skies are blue

4 -6 6
1.there's a land
2.and the dreams

5 -5 6 -6
1.that i heard of
2.that you dare to

-4 -3 4 -4 5 4
1.once in a lull-a-by
2.dream real-ly do come true

6 5 6 5 6 5 6 5
some-day i'll wish up-on a star

6 -5 6 -5
and wake up where

6 -5 6 -5 6 -6 -7
the clouds are far be-hind me

6 5 6 5 6 5 6 5
where trou-bles melt like le-mon drops

6 -5 6 -5 6 -5 6 -5
a-way a-bove the chim-ney tops

6 -5 6 -6 -7
that's where you'll find me

4 7 -7 6 -6 -7 7
some-where o-ver the rain-bow

4 -6 6
blue-birds fly

5 -6 5 4 -4 5 -5
birds fly o-ver the rain-bow

FAMILY FAVORITES

-4 -3 4 5 4
why, then why, can't i ?

6 5 6 5 6 5 6 5
if hap-py lit-tle blue-birds fly

6 -5 6 -5 6
beyond the rain-bow

-5 6 -6 -7 7
why, oh why, can't i ?

New York State of Mind

Some folks like to get a-way,
6 6 -5 5 -5 6 6
take a hol-i-day from the neigh-bor-hood
-5 5 -5 6 6 -5 5 -5 5 5
Hop a flight to Mi-am-i beach or to Hol-ly-wood.
7 -7 -7 7 -6 7 -7 -7 7 -6 7 -6 -6
But I'm tak-in' a Grey-hound
3 6 6 -5 5 -5 5
on the Hud-son Riv-er line
-3 3 -3 4 -5 5 5
I'm in a New York state of mind.
-3 4 -3 -5 -5 4 -3 -3

I've seen all the mov-ie stars in their
6 6 -5 5 -5 6 6 -5 5
fan-cy cars and their lim-ou-sines,
-5 6 6 -5 5 -5 5 5
Been high in the Rock-ies
-7 -7 7 -6 7 -7
Un-der the ev-er-greens,
-7 7 -6 7 -7 -6
But I know what I'm need-in'
6 6 6 -5 5 -5 5
and I don't want to waste more time
-3 3 -3 4 -3 -5 5 5
I'm in a New York state of mind.
-3 4 -3 -5 -5 5 -3 -3

It was so ea-sy liv-in' day by day
5 5 5 5 -4 -3 3 -3 -4 -4
Out of touch with the rhy-thm and blues,
-3* -3* -3* -3* -3* -3* 4 -5 -3
And now I need a lit-tle give and take,
-5 -5 -5 -5 5* -4 -3 -4 4* 4*
The New York Times, the Dail-y News.
-3 -4 4 4 3 -3 -4 -4
Comes down to re-al-i-ty
6 6 -5 5 -5 6 6
and it's fine with me
-5 5 -5 6 6
'cause I've let it slide,

CAMPFIRE HARMONICA

-5 5 -5 5 5
Don't care if it's Chi-na-town
-7 -7 7 -6 7 -7 -7
Or on Riv-er-side,
7 -6 7 -6 -6
I don't have an-y rea-sons,
6 6 6 -5 5 -5 5
I've left them all be-hind
3 -3 4 -5 5 5
I'm in a New York state of mind.
-3 4 -3 -5 -5 5 -3 -3

Sweet Baby James:

3 4 5 6 -6 6 4 -6 6 -5 6
There is a young cow-boy he lives on the range
4 -6 -6 -6 -7 -6 6 -6 6 5 4 5 6
His horse and his cat-tle are his on-ly com-pan-ions
4 -6 -6 -6 -7 -7 6 -5 6 5 4 5 6
He works in the sad-dle and he sleeps in the can-yons
-5 -5 -5 5 -4 4 -4 -4 5 -4
Wait-ing for Sum-mer, his pas-tures to change
4 -6 -6 -6 -6 6 -5 -6 6 -5 6
And as the moon ri-ses he sits by his fire
-6 -6 -6 -6 -7 -6 6 6 5 4 -4
Think-ing a-bout wo-men and glas-ses of beer
4 -6 -6 -6 -6 -5 6 -6 6 -5 6
And clos-ing his eyes as the do-gies re-tire
4 -6 -6 -6 -7 -6 6 6 5 4 5
He sings out a song which is soft but it's clear
4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 5 -4
As if may-be some-one could hear
5 5 -5 -5 5 -4 5
Good-night you moon-light la-dies
-6 -6 -6 -6 -6 6 6
Rock-a-bye sweet ba-by James
-6 -6 -6 -6 -6 6 6 6 4 4
Deep greens and blues are the col-ors I choose
4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 -4 5 -4
Won't you let me go down in my dreams
-5 -5 -5 5 -4 4 -3 4
And rock-a-bye sweet ba-by James

FAMILY FAVORITES

Now the first of December was covered with snow
And so was the turnpike from Stockbridge to Boston
Lord, the Berkshires seemed dreamlike
on account of that frosting
With ten miles behind me
and ten thousand more to go
There's a song that they sing
when they take to the highway
A song that they sing when they take to the sea
A song that they sing of their home in the sky
Maybe you can believe it if it helps you to sleep
But singing works just fine for me

Goodnight you moonlight ladies
Rock-a-bye sweet baby James
Deep greens and blues are the colors I choose
Won't you let me go down in my dreams
And rock-a-bye sweet baby James

12

Songbook: Guaranteed Sing-a-Longs

Break out your harp and begin playing these songs in public. You'll be amazed at how many strangers will join you for a song.

Hey Jude

6 5 5 6 -6 -4 -4 5 -5 7 7 -7 6 -6 6 -5 5
Hey, Jude, don't make it bad; take a sad song and make it b e t t e r

6 -6 -6 -6 -8 7 -7 7 -6 6 4 -4 5 -6 6 6 -5 5-3 4 4
Remember to let her into your heart, then you can start to make it better.

6 5 5 6 -6 -4 -4 5 -5 7 7 -7 6 6 6-55
Hey, Jude, don't be afraid, you were made to go out and get her.

6 -6 -6 -6 -8 7 -7 7 -6 6 4 -4 5 -6 6 -5 5-3 -34
The minute you let her under your skin, then you begin to make it better.

4 7-7 -6 6 6 -5 -6 7 -6 7 -5
And any time you feel the pain, hey, Jude, refrain

7 -6 6 -5 6 -6 6 -5 5 -4 4
Don't carry the world upon your shoulders.

4 7 -6 -6 6 6 -5 -6 7 -6 7 -5
For now you know that its a fool who plays it cool

7 -6 6 -5 6 -6 6 -5 5 -4 4 4 6 -6 -7 -6 -7 -7 7 -8 -8
By making his world a little co ld er. da da da da da da da da da da

GUARANTEED SING-A-LONGS

Piano Man

6 6 6 6 -5 5 -5 5 4
its nine o'clock on a sa-turday

4 4 4 4 4 4 -4 -4
the regular crowd shuffles in

6 6 6 6 -5 5 -5 5 4
theres an old man sitting next to me

3 3 3 -5 -5 -5 5 4 4
making love to his tonic and gin

9 9 9 9 9 9 -9 8 -9 8 7
he says son can you play me a memory

7 7 7 7 7 -8 -8 -8
im not really sure how it goes

8 -9 9 9 9 9 -9 8 -9 8 8 8
but its sad and its sweet and I knew it complete

7 7 7 8 -9 8 7 7
when I wore a younger mans clothes

-6 -6 -6 -7 7 -7-7
da - da - da - de - de - d-a

-6 -6 -7 7 -7 -6 6
da - da - de - de - da - da - da

9 9 9 9
sing us a song

-9 8 -9 8 7
you're the piano man

-6 7 7 7 -8 -8
sing us a song tonight

8 8 9 9 9 9 -9 8 -9 8 7
well were all in the mood for a melody

7 -6 7 7 -9 8 7 7
and youve got us feeling alright.

Imagine

John Lennon

3 3 3 3 -4 -4 -3
Imagine there's no heaven

3 3 3 3 -4 -4 -3
It's easy if you try--

3 3 -4 -4 -3
No hell below us

3 3 3 -4 -4 -3
Above us only- sky

CAMPFIRE HARMONICA

-3 4 -3 5 6 6 -5
Imagine all the people

-4 -4 -4 5 -5
Living for today...

3 3 3 3 -4 -4 -3
Imagine there's no countries

3 3 3 3 -4 -4 -3
It isn't hard to do---

3 3 3 3 -4 -4 -3
Nothing to kill or die for

3 3 3 3 -4 -4 -3
And no religion too--

-3 4 -3 5 6 6 -5
Imagine all the people

-4 -4 -4 5 -5
Living life in peace...

6 7 6 -5 -3 4 -4 4 -4 -3 -3 -4 4 4
You----- you may say----- I'm a dreamer

-3 4 -4 -4 -3 -3 2
But I'm not the only- one

-3 -3 4 -4 -4 4 4 -3 3
I hope someday you'll join us----

4 4 -5 6 -5 5 -5 6 5 5
And the world---- will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world...

